

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 24, 2000

**Senate Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 97**

**Introduced by Senator Burton**

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Aanestad, Ackerman, Alquist, Aroner, Ashburn, Baldwin, Bates, Battin, Bock, Calderon, Campbell, Cardenas, Cardoza, Cedillo, Corbett, Cox, Cunneen, Davis, Ducheny, Dutra, Firebaugh, Florez, Floyd, Gallegos, Granlund, Havice, Hertzberg, Honda, House, Jackson, Kaloogian, Keeley, Knox, Kuehl, Leach, Lempert, Leonard, Longville, Lowenthal, Machado, Maddox, Maldonado, Margett, Mazzoni, McClintock, Migden, Nakano, Olberg, Oller, Robert Pacheco, Rod Pacheco, Papan, Pescetti, Reyes, Romero, Runner, Scott, Shelley, Steinberg, Strickland, Strom-Martin, Thompson, Thomson, Torlakson, Villaraigosa, Vincent, Washington, Wayne, Wesson, Wiggins, Wildman, Wright, and Zettel)

August 22, 2000

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 97—Relative to the Alfred Zampa Memorial Bridge.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 97, as amended, Burton. Alfred Zampa Memorial Bridge.

This measure would designate the west-bound span of the Carquinez Bridge as the Alfred Zampa Memorial Bridge in honor and recognition of Alfred “Al” Zampa. The measure also would request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost for appropriate signs showing this special

designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering that cost, to erect those signs.

Fiscal committee: yes.

1 WHEREAS, Alfred “Al” Zampa was born on March 12,  
2 1905, in Selby, California, the oldest son of southern  
3 Italian Immigrants, and the brother to two brothers and  
4 two sisters; and

5 WHEREAS, After graduating from high school, Al  
6 Zampa went into business and became the owner of a  
7 meat market in Crockett, California until about 1924,  
8 when a customer asked him if he wanted to go to work for  
9 that customer on the bridge they were building from  
10 Crockett to Vallejo; and

11 WHEREAS, When after some hesitation, Al Zampa  
12 decided to give it a try; and

13 WHEREAS, The first Carquinez Bridge opened in May  
14 of 1927, in part due to Al Zampa’s efforts, and that bridge  
15 was to be the first of many bridges Al Zampa would work  
16 on in his illustrious career as an iron worker; and

17 WHEREAS, Al Zampa continued working with the  
18 company that built the Carquinez Bridge and worked on  
19 projects and bridges in Stockton, California and later in  
20 Arizona and Texas, returning to California in the early  
21 1930’s to work on the Oakland-San Francisco Bay Bridge  
22 and the Golden Gate Bridge; and

23 WHEREAS, On October 20, 1936, this outstanding iron  
24 worker fell into the safety net while working on the  
25 Golden Gate Bridge and broke four vertebrae in his back;  
26 and

27 WHEREAS, During his years of recuperation following  
28 that accident, Al Zampa and a couple of his friends  
29 founded the area’s first baseball league for the local youth;  
30 and

31 WHEREAS, He later returned to iron work and worked  
32 on the second Carquinez Bridge in the 1950’s with his two  
33 sons, Richard L. (Dick) and Gene; and

34 WHEREAS, Al Zampa also worked on the Martinez  
35 Bridge and the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge and

1 continued to work as a respected iron worker until he  
2 retired at the age of 65; and

3 WHEREAS, Many years after his retirement, and prior  
4 to the Golden Gate Bridge's 50-Year Celebration, Al  
5 Zampa received much deserved recognition and  
6 notoriety; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1987, he was the subject of a stage play  
8 entitled "The Ace" that was performed at Fort Mason in  
9 San Francisco, was interviewed by news stations from all  
10 over the world, and was interviewed by Charles Kuralt  
11 for the national television show "On the Road"; and

12 WHEREAS, Al Zampa was also interviewed for the  
13 History Channel on top of the building of the Golden  
14 Gate Bridge and more recently for a new show entitled  
15 "Suicide Missions: Skywalkers" which depicts the history  
16 of the Iron Worker Union; and

17 WHEREAS, Al Zampa was always proud to be a 65-year  
18 old union member and grateful to have received a union  
19 pension after retiring from Iron Workers Local 378,  
20 Oakland, in 1970; and

21 WHEREAS, Al Zampa strongly believed in supporting  
22 the labor endorsed candidates, from the days of Franklin  
23 D. Roosevelt to Bill Clinton, and was a staunch lifelong  
24 Democrat, having never missed an election; and

25 WHEREAS, Al Zampa passed away on April 23, 2000,  
26 at the age of 95, and will be missed by many; and

27 WHEREAS, It would be a fitting tribute to Alfred "Al"  
28 Zampa to name the soon-to-be-completed west-bound  
29 span of the Carquinez Bridge as the Alfred Zampa  
30 Memorial Bridge; and be it further

31 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the*  
32 *Assembly thereof concurring,* That the Legislature  
33 hereby designates the west-bound span of the Carquinez  
34 Bridge the Alfred Zampa Memorial Bridge in honor and  
35 recognition of Alfred "Al" Zampa; and be it further

36 *Resolved,* That the Department of Transportation is  
37 requested to determine the cost of appropriate plaques  
38 and markers, consistent with the signing requirements  
39 for the state highway system, showing this special  
40 designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate

1 sources covering that cost, to erect those plaques and  
2 markers; and be it further  
3 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit  
4 copies of this resolution to the Director of Transportation  
5 and to the author for distribution.

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